

Silverton High School, September 2016 - June 2017
English 4—Senior English

GO FOXES!



Instructor: Ms. Jeannie Herr

Prep: Third Period

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Course Overview:

English 4, a full-year required class, continues to develop and refine students' reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills as they ready to graduate high school and move on to participate as active citizens in society. For college *or* career readiness, one must be able to think critically, think reflectively, analyze effectively, and possess argument literacy - all things that develop as we write and are what theorist and critic Neil Postman calls *the soul of education*. Therefore, this course emphasizes clear writing and critical reading and thinking. Students will practice skills to access and process information and to communicate fluently and effectively. Students will explore a variety of ancient and modern world literature texts including short story, drama, and the novel, read contemporary informational texts, and enjoy self-selected literature. (Be thinking about what you might want to read!) The textbook is *Prentice Hall Literature—World Masterpieces* and the novels *Persepolis* and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Students will study the elements of effective expository writing and practice sentence, paragraph, and essay development techniques.

Silverton High School English Language Arts Department Grading Policy:

Our goal as a department is to ensure students master each of the Common Core State Standards selected for their English course. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on each standard. Each standard is equally weighted in the gradebook, so it is important that students focus on all standards selected for the course. All assignments are graded on a scale of 1-5. A score of 5 signifies mastery of a standard. A score of 4 signifies proficiency, or "passing" a standard. A score of 3 signifies developing toward proficiency. A score of 2 signifies not meeting the standard. A score of 1 signifies that the student has neglected to complete and turn in the assignment and is sometimes no longer eligible for a grade on that assignment and must use additional opportunities to meet that standard.

Gradebook Codes:

R = received but not yet graded

X = excused

Z = missing but can still turn it in (may not be full points for some standards)

Students: Please familiarize yourself with how to check your grades online through Pinnacle. Don't depend on up-to-date printouts in the classroom. You get printouts from AG once a week, but things change, so take the time to personally keep tabs on what your grades are doing. Checking in Pinnacle several times a week will ensure you are on top of your progress and will alert you of any errors or missing work.

Parents: To view your student's progress towards proficiency on course standards for the class, please use the *Parent Links* button on the top of the SHS homepage to access the link to Pinnacle (a password-restricted website). A letter will be mailed home with log-in info and instructions for using the website.

Turning in work—Please read this carefully: Being prepared for class and turning in ALL assignments on time is important and **expected** and is tied to **CCS SL.1a**, which will be a weighted grade category. **BE RESPONSIBLE: If you've been absent, when you return, IMMEDIATELY check the calendar board AND the class assignment notebook before checking with me to see what you missed. You will have as much time as the rest of the class had to complete this work. Be sure to collect materials and schedule any tests you may have missed, many of which are time sensitive. If you are present when a task is assigned but you're absent on the day it's due, you need to bring it the day you return.**

HONOR POLICY

Silverton High School faculty and administration believe that honesty and trustworthiness are the basic characteristics of a citizen in a free society. We also believe that whatever learning a person achieves, as the result of his/her own efforts is an accomplishment in which he/she can take pride and which will be of use and benefit to him/her. In this belief, and as an expression of the value we place on the integrity of a student's work, we will not accept plagiarism, copying the work of others, doing another student's work for him/her, giving him/her answers for tests, nor any other activity that falls into the classification of cheating. The consequences for such action will include the confiscation of material, notification of parents, possible failure of assignment and/or class, and disciplinary action.

Self-Selected Literature

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." (Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*)

As inspiration to adopt a lifelong habit of reading, during first semester you will select and read a novel of your choice. Reading not only broadens your worldview, but it will also help you to become a better writer as you discover how an author creates and develops ideas and expresses them through engaging writing. You may borrow a book from the school or public library, your parents or friends, or peruse book stores and garage sales. For this assignment, unless you have specific permission to do so, do not select a novel you've previously read - in or out of the classroom - or a novel that has been made into a movie. Also, unless otherwise instructed, do not pick a non-fiction book. You might also want to check out the college prep reading lists (on the counter) - they include some great classics and will help you prepare for college!

Class time for reading will be whenever an appropriate window of time appears; keep your novels with you at all times. You will need to plan sufficient out-of-class reading time to finish your book within the designated time. Either during the course of reading your novel or once completed, you will do an activity that will demonstrate your understanding and analysis of the story/characters/author/literary techniques, etc. Remember, take the time to find a good book; this activity is intended to be an enjoyable way to cultivate the love of reading - AND to give you additional opportunities to meet standards!

Composition Notebooks

You will need to purchase a **Composition Notebook** (Meads are available in our library) that is used **only for this class**. It will be collected or checked a few times during the semester. All you have to do is engage yourself in the activity, your writing the vehicle to convey your thoughts. I will not necessarily read and specifically grade all comp. book activities. Much of the work you do will be for the purposes of articulating your ideas, to analyze, and often to prepare for class discussions. Remember, you are developing your capacity for thinking and effectively expressing your ideas, so don't negate the importance of these activities just because, at that moment, a specific grade may not be given for your efforts. Value yourself and the opportunity to strengthen your mind and thinking processes! Any grades generating from Mead activities will be in the SL.1a weighted category. Please DO participate!

Materials

In addition to the required text(s), students should bring the following each day:

- Paper, pens, pencil
- 2 highlighters (different colors),
- A lined composition book to be used only for this class (Meads sold in library - \$1.50).
- Homework, assignments, etc.
- Self-selected novels ... just in case a window appears...

Class Expectations

- 1) Bring materials (see above)
- 2) **BE RESPONSIBLE**. In this class we maintain high standards and expectations. Students are accountable for participating in class and completing and turning in assignments on time. We expect quality work at all times and encourage students to **challenge themselves** to work to their own highest level of achievement. Please arrive on time, with all materials, ready to work each day. **IMPORTANT: AGAIN**, when returning from an absence, please check the class notebook carefully for any work or activities you missed. Make arrangements to get materials, take tests, etc.
- 3) **BE RESPECTFUL** and supportive of everyone in the classroom. Support the teacher's right to teach and others' right to learn. **Phone usage**: Please keep your phones off and put away during class unless we're using them for something. If I see them too often, I will take them. The same goes for **music/headphones**: Please keep these put away during class. Surprisingly, most students DO work better when NOT distracted with noise, lyrics, or voices. Focusing on the task at hand will generate higher quality work.
- 4) **SHOW HONESTY** and **INTEGRITY** in your words and actions. Do the right thing at all times.
- 5) **BATHROOM INTERRUPTIONS**: We will not have bathroom breaks the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class. It's too disruptive and makes it hard to get the class started or finished.

I wish you all a successful year! Please communicate any concerns or difficulties you might have along the way so that I can help facilitate your success.

GO CLASS OF 2017!